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Proceedings of the Antimasonic State Committee,
Providence, Rhode Island - 1835.

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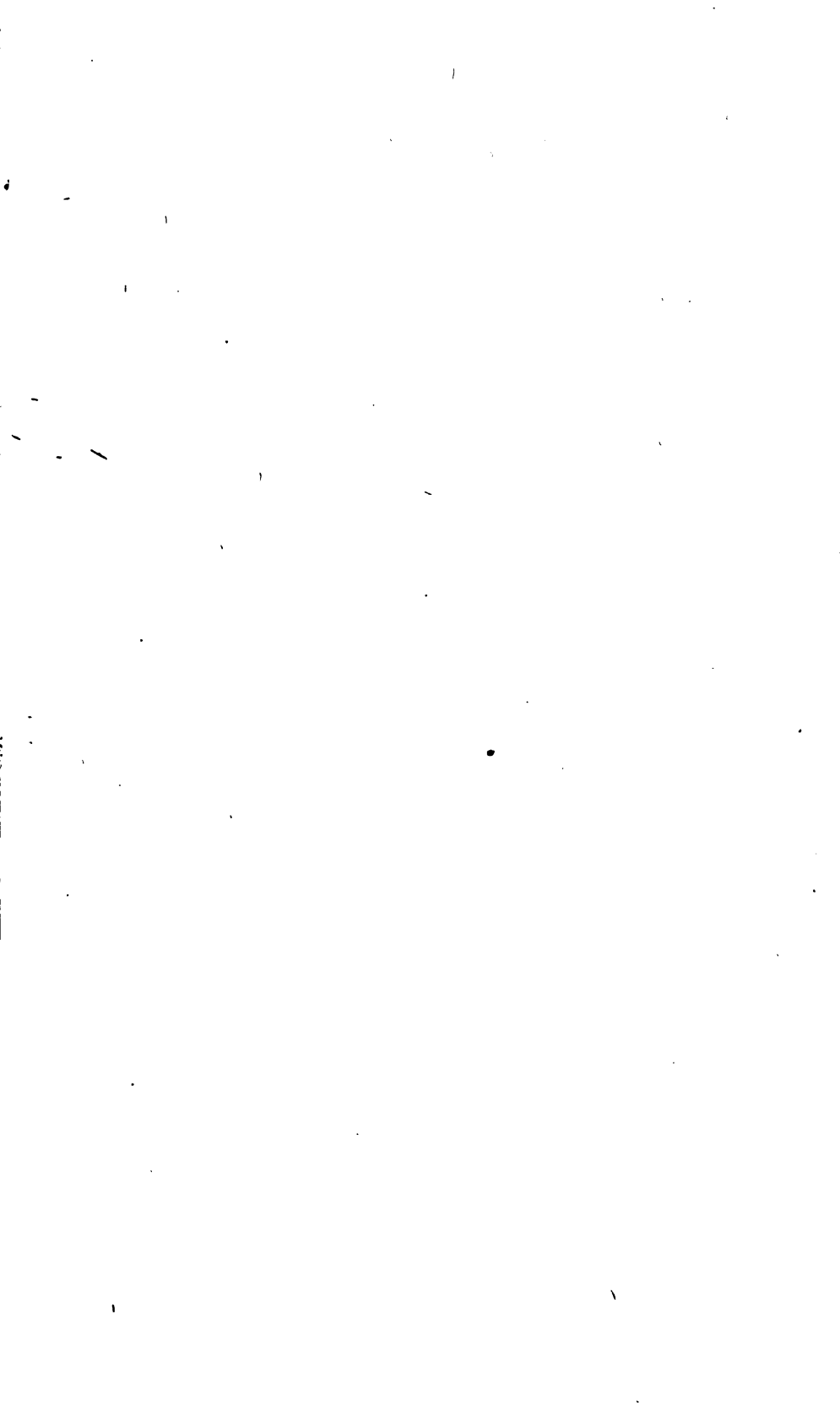




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FROM

Rev. Thos. W. Higginson



Providence Island - Antimasonic State Committee

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Antimasonic State Committee

AT THEIR

MEETING IN PROVIDENCE,

JULY 17, 1895,

NOMINATING CANDIDATES

FOR THE

TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

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1835.

ANTIMASONIC TICKET.

*Representatives to the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the
United States :*

WILLIAM SPRAGUE, Jr.

OF WARWICK.

DUTEE J. PEARCE,

OF NEWPORT.

PROCEEDINGS, &c.

At a meeting of the Antimasonic State Committee, at Providence, on the 17th day of July, 1835, Col. RICHARD SHAW was appointed *Chairman*, and JOHN BROWN, Esq. *Secretary*.

After a full and free communication of views and feelings, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz. :

Resolved, That in consideration of the short period of time which now remains for choosing Delegates, and assembling an Antimasonic State Convention, for the purpose of nominating candidates for Representatives to Congress ; that time being the most busy and important season of the year for the Farming interest—and it being considered, from information from different parts of the State, that the common sentiment of the Antimasonic party clearly and undoubtedly point out the most acceptable candidates: it is therefore inexpedient at this time to call a Convention for that purpose.

Resolved, That the *death* of Freemasonry, in this State, and the *abandonment* of the Institution, which have been so often and so disingenuously pretended and declared by Masons and their partisans, have been utterly falsified and disproved by their own proceedings, as the following facts will show :—A Royal Arch Mason has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State, in the place of an Antimason, and is now put in nomination as a Representative to Congress :—Every Masonic body in the State has with impunity set at open defiance the laws of the State, in not making annual returns to the Secretary of State, of their numbers and officers :—The public sentiment has been outraged by a renewed celebration of the festival of St. John, as a *Mason*, and the ancient *Patron of the Order* :—And, finally,

by the removal from office of every person in the State, (with few exceptions,) who was known, or suspected to be an Antimason.

Resolved, therefore, That we deem a continuance of the Antimasonic party, and an adherence to its full and distinct organization and political action as matters of deep and vital importance, and recommend to our Antimasonic brethren throughout the State, an early, earnest and devoted attention to these subjects, and a steady and unwavering perseverance in the great cause in which they have engaged.

Resolved, That in the exercise of the powers vested in this Committee, by the Convention that raised it, and to meet the expectations and wishes of the Antimasonic party of this State, we have unanimously agreed on, and recommend

WILLIAM SPRAGUE, JR., OF WARWICK,

AND

DUTEE J. PEARCE, OF NEWPORT,

as suitable candidates for their suffrages as Representatives to the next Congress of the United States.

Resolved, That we will use all just and proper means, (as far as in us lies,) to promote and secure the election of the gentlemen named; and cordially recommend them to the hearty and undivided support of our friends and party.

Resolved, That the proceedings of the Antimasonic meeting, holden at Providence on the 11th instant, together with the proceedings of the present meeting of the State Committee, be printed under the signatures of the Chairman and Secretary, and that two thousand copies thereof be distributed under their direction.

RICHARD SHAW, CHAIRMAN.

JOHN BROWN, SEC'RY.

CITY ANTIMASONIC MEETING.

At a meeting of the Antimasonic freemen of the city of Providence, holden by adjournment at Mr. *Waite's* Hotel, on Saturday evening July 11th, 1835, EDWARD S. WILLIAMS, Esq. was chosen CHAIRMAN, and SAMUEL E. WAITE, SECRETARY.

MESSRS. GEORGE F. MAN, WALTER PAINE, JR., HENRY CODDING, EDWARD S. WILLIAMS, and THOMAS WHITE, having been appointed at a former meeting to prepare and present Resolutions expressive of the feeling of the Antimasons of this city, presented by Mr. MANN, as unanimously agreed upon by said Committee, the following Resolutions, viz. :—

1. *Resolved*, That as Antimasons, we look back with feelings of satisfaction, at the success which has attended the cause of political Antimasonry in this State, in that we have obtained all we have sought in legislative enactments, and that now it remains for us by the exercise of due caution in the election of suitable persons to office, to endeavor to ensure the faithful execution of such enactments, and the general *supremacy of the laws* ; and when practicable, to bring our political action to the assistance of our political brethren abroad, to support them in their struggles against the Masonic Institution.

2. *Resolved*, That the success which has attended our cause in this State, is mainly to be attributed to the inflexible adherence to our identity and distinct political organization—in an honorable and faithful co-operation with the Democratic party, as well as during our disastrous alliance with the National, now, Whig party—That the plain road to attain the end of our association, viz. the final extinction of the Masonic institution, is to preserve that identity unimpaired,

whether acting separately or in concurrence with other parties—and while we consider Antimasonry of sufficient importance for political action, we deprecate and will resist any attempt to destroy that identity, or to amalgamate with other parties, as being of disastrous tendency and subversive of the end of our organization—that a co-operation with other parties, (so far as is consistent with the great principles of liberty, and justice)—when such co-operation presents the best means for the final extinction of Masonry, is honorable and praise worthy, and we would recommend to the Antimasons, a continuance of such co-operation.

3. *Resolved*, That as no regular action has yet been had by the Antimasonic party, in relation to the candidates for Representatives to Congress, we deem it the duty of this meeting to forbear the expression of any opinion on this subject, however clearly the probable candidates may be indicated by the common sentiments of the party—but would recommend an immediate meeting of the Antimasonic State Committee, to make the nomination themselves, or if said Committee should deem it most expedient, to call an Antimasonic State Convention for that purpose.

4. *Resolved*, That the united political action of the Democratic and Antimasonic parties, has been honorably conducted, in good faith towards each other, and beneficial to our cause, which, contrasted with the treachery of the National party in 1831, entitles the Democratic party to a strong hold upon our respect.

5. *Resolved*, That the whigs in the use they have made of their recent acquisition of power in this State, have demonstrated to our minds the existence of a spirit of determination on their part to uphold the institution of Masonry, and have manifested in their leaders so strong a disposition of deep hostility to Antimasons, as to destroy all confidence in their professions of neutrality—which, with the nomination of a high, and to Antimasons an obnoxious Mason for the honorable and important station of Representative to Congress, together with the spirit which Masons have exhibited, indicating that they felt the triumph of the whigs as the triumph of Masonry—the setting the laws at defiance, by refusing to make re-

turns—and the recent revival of the Masonic Festival—warns us, as well as those who have been deceived by whig professions, and the oft repeated assertion that “Masonry is dead,” to inflexibly persevere until Masonry is evidently extinguished.

6. *Resolved*, That the late Masonic celebration in this city, of the 24th of June, marked as it was by an elaborate revival and an audacious display of all its customary accompaniments, affords unequivocal proof that the Masonic combination still exists in this State, and that it is animated by a fixed determination to outbrave public sentiment, and sustain itself against public opinion—that all arguments to induce a contrary opinion against obvious facts are insidious sophistry—tending, if not intended, to re-establish Masonry upon the ruins of Antimasonry—that it is in vain for Antimasons to expect by a remission of their efforts a voluntary abandonment of the institution—that their only hope of success must henceforth be founded on united, incessant and inflexible political action, unintimidated by the despotism of the Lodge, and undiverted by the sophistry and falsehood of its abettors and coadjutors.

7. *Resolved*, That while Masonry thus exists and men are found still to adhere to its rites, its oaths and ceremonies, it will, as it ever has done, prove itself superior to all law—and that, though we have Legislatures ready to enact laws for the public safety and the just equality of its citizens in political rights, those laws cannot be executed so long as a combination as powerful as the Masonic is permitted to exist among us.

8. *Resolved*, That in view of these facts it becomes our imperious duty to continue the organization of the Antimasonic party throughout the State, and vigorously to prosecute the contest of equal rights—and therefore we recommend to our brethren in the different towns in this State, to an active co-operation with us in these measures—that they appoint suitable Committees of vigilance and correspondence—and that we, one and all, make common cause against this general, continued and fearful evil.

9. *Resolved*, That the aspect of the times demands

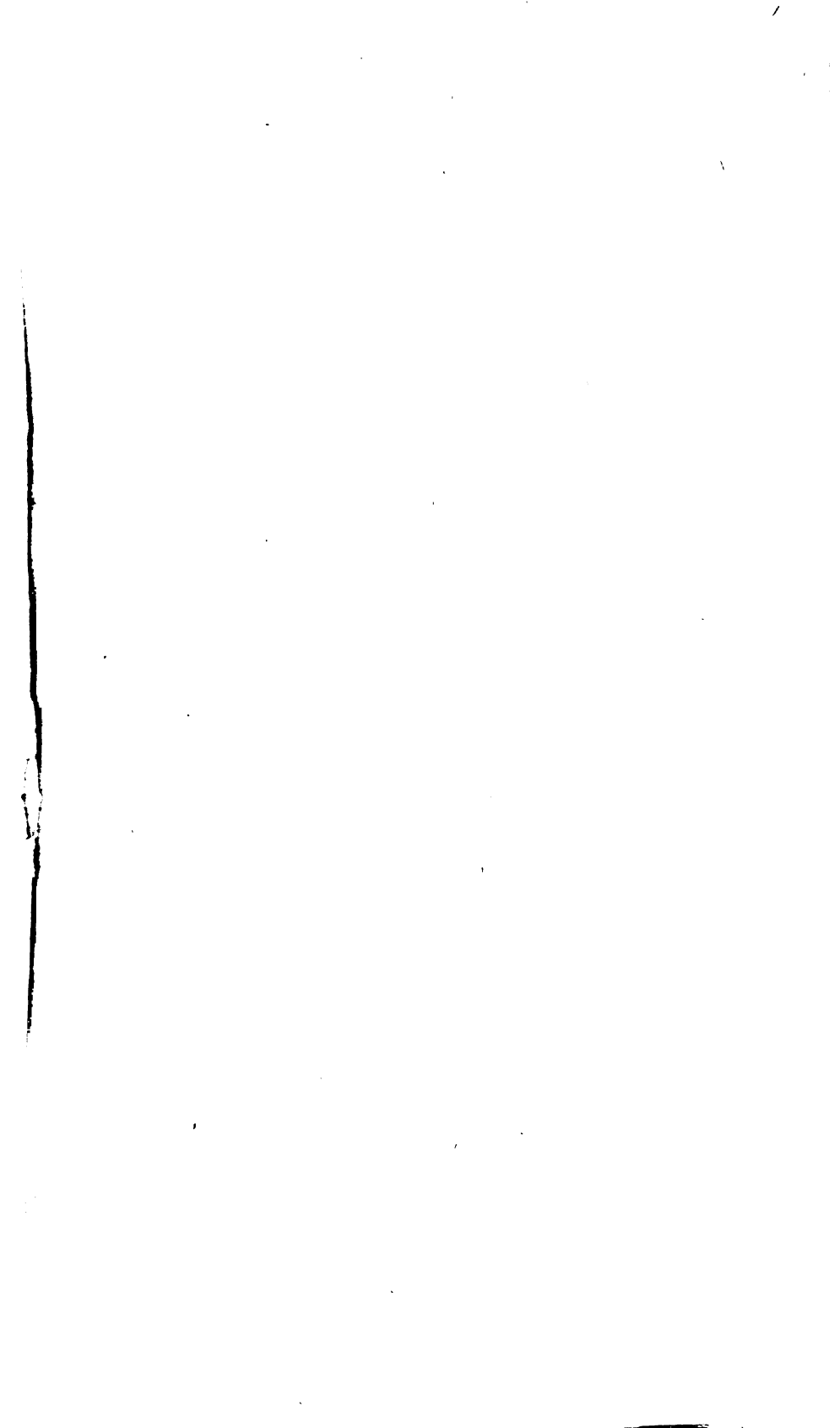
the immediate re-establishment, in this city, of a bold, independent—purely Antimasonic press.

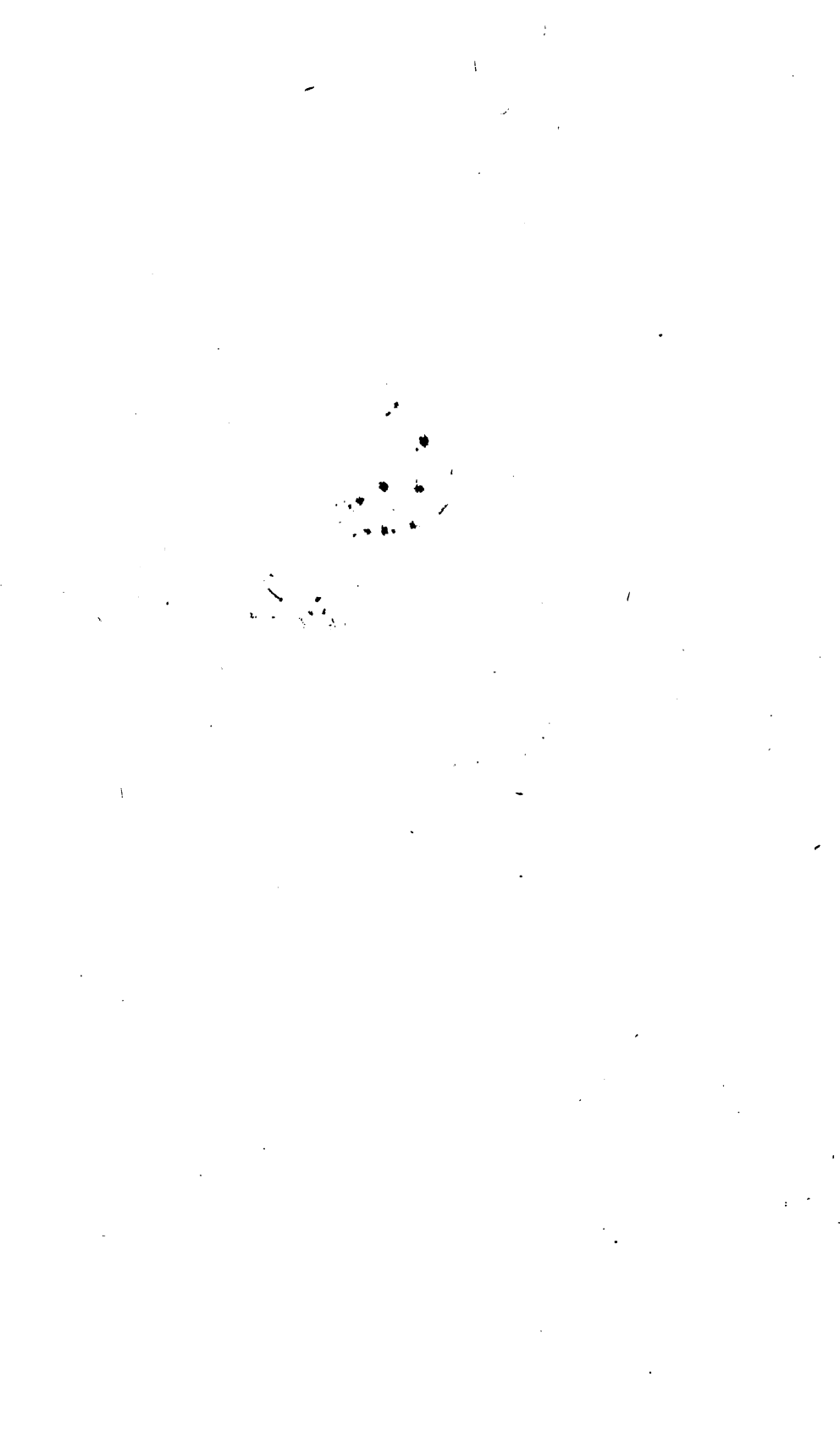
10. *Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be published with the sanction of the Chairman and Secretary in the Republican Herald, and such other newspapers of this State as are disposed to give information to the public on this subject.

The above Resolutions, after mature deliberation by the meeting, were unanimously adopted.

EDWARD S. WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN.

SAMUEL E. WAITE, SEC'RY.







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